

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended): A substantially homogenous sized *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B capsular oligosaccharide (MenB OS) glycoconjugate produced by a method comprising:

- (a) providing a heterogenous population of MenB OS in which sialic acid residue N-acetyl groups are replaced with N-C₃-C₈ acyl groups;
- (b) obtaining a substantially homogenous sized group of MenB OS from the population of step (a) wherein said group of MenB OS has an average degree of polymerization (Dp) of about 10 to 20;
- (c) covalently attaching a C₃-C₁₆ long-chain aliphatic lipid to the nonreducing end of the MenB OS obtained in step (b);
- (d) introducing a reactive group at the reducing end of the MenB OS obtained in step (c) to provide single end-activated MenB OS of said DP; and
- (e) covalently attaching the single end-activated MenB OS obtained in step (d) to a protein carrier molecule to provide the substantially homogenous sized MenB OS glycoconjugate.

32. (currently amended): A substantially homogenous sized *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B capsular oligosaccharide (MenB OS)/CRM₁₉₇ toxoid glycoconjugate produced by a method comprising:

- (a) providing a heterogenous population of MenB OS in which sialic acid residue N-acetyl groups are replaced with saturated N-propionyl groups;
- (b) obtaining a substantially homogenous sized group of MenB OS from the population of step (a) wherein said MenB OS have an average degree of polymerization (Dp) of about 12 to 18;

- (c) covalently attaching a C3-C16 long-chain aliphatic lipid to the nonreducing end of the MenB OS obtained in step (b);
- (d) introducing a reactive group at the reducing end of the MenB OS obtained in step (b) to provide single end-activated MenB OS of said DP; and
- (e) covalently attaching the single end-activated MenB OS obtained in step (d) to a CRM₁₉₇ bacterial toxoid carrier molecule to provide the substantially homogenous sized MenB OS/CRM₁₉₇ toxoid glycoconjugate.

33-42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented): The glycoconjugate of claim 31, wherein the reactive group introduced in step (d) comprises an active ester group.

44. (canceled)

45. (currently amended): The glycoconjugate of claim 31, wherein the carrier molecule is a bacterial toxoid.

46. (currently amended): The glycoconjugate of claim 45, wherein the ~~carrier molecule bacterial toxoid~~ is a nontoxic mutant bacterial toxoid.

47. (previously presented): The glycoconjugate of claim 31, wherein the MenB OS has an average degree of polymerization (Dp) of about 12 to about 18.

48-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended): A substantially homogenous sized *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B capsular oligosaccharide (MenB OS) glycoconjugate produced by a method comprising:

- (a) providing a heterogenous population of MenB OS in which sialic acid residue N-acetyl groups are replaced with N-C₃-C₈ acyl groups;
- (b) obtaining a substantially homogenous sized group of MenB OS from the population of step (a) wherein said group of MenB OS has an average degree of polymerization (Dp) of about 10 to 20;
- (c) introducing a reactive group at the reducing end of the MenB OS obtained in step (b) to provide single end-activated MenB OS of said DP; and
- (d) covalently attaching the single end-activated MenB OS obtained in step (c) to a protein carrier molecule to provide the substantially homogenous sized MenB OS glycoconjugate.

51. (previously presented): The glycoconjugate of claim 50, wherein the reactive group introduced in step (c) comprises an active ester group.

52. (currently amended): The glycoconjugate of claim 50, wherein the protein carrier molecule is a bacterial toxoid.

53. (currently amended): The glycoconjugate of claim 52, wherein the carrier molecule bacterial toxoid is a nontoxic mutant bacterial toxoid.

54. (currently amended): The glycoconjugate of claim 53, wherein the nontoxic mutant bacterial toxoid is a CRM₁₉₇ carrier molecule.

55. (previously presented): The glycoconjugate of claim 50, wherein the MenB OS has an average degree of polymerization (Dp) of about 12 to about 18.